

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

HA-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 /082 W

-----084611 232113Z /73

R 221355Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2217

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4897

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINS, SF

SUBJECT: VENDA OPPOSITION MEMBERS DETAINED

REF: PRETORIA 4268

1. USING EMERGENCY POWERS GRANTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN OCTOBER, 1977, VENDA CHIEF MINISTER PATRICK MPHEPHU HAS REPORTEDLY DETAINED AT LEAST 22 PROMINENT VENDA OPPOSITION MEMBERS AUGUST 19 AND 20. THE DETAINEES INCLUDE NINE OF THE 31 VENDA INDEPENDENCE PARTY MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN THE JULY ELECTIONS (REPORTED REFTEL) AND THREE MAGISTRATES.

2. VENDA INDEPENDENCE PARTY LEADER AND CONTENDER FOR THE CHIEF MINISTER POSITION, BALDWIN MUDAUN TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 22 THAT UNLESS THE DETAINEES ARE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY, HIS PARTY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SESSION DUE TO CONVENE ON SEPTEMBER 12. MADAU STATED THAT HE WAS GLAD THAT THE FUMBLING MPHEPHU HAD TAKEN THIS STEP AS IT SHOWS THE WORLD THAT THE SUPPOSEDLY DEMOCRATIC ASPECTS OF THE HOMELANDS POLICY ARE IN REALITY A FARCE. MUDAUN SUSPECTED THAT MINISTER OF PLURAL RELATIONS, CONNIE MULDER, WILL PUT PRESSURE ON MPHEPHU TO RELEASE THE DETAINEES AS THE SITUATION

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CAN ONLY CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE SAG. PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT MULDER WILL LOOK INTO THE SITUATION UPON RETURNING TO PRETORIA AUGUST 22 FROM A TRIP TO THE CISKEI.

EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DETENTION, OPPOSITION PARTIES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: PDEV, PINS, SF
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